(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) offers exclusive packages to the holiday makers. Similarly, it has also tied up with M/s. Majorda Beach Resorts and M/s. Whispering Palms Beach Resorts Goa to offer attractive Holiday packages. Air India as the national carrier has also been actively promoting tourism into India. All efforts are made to promote all destinations in every region of the country.

Expansion of Aviation Facilities in Rajasthan

4575. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Civil Aviation facilities in Rajasthan are inadequate; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Civil Aviation facilities are reviewed on a regular basis. At present, the Airports Authority of India is maintaing Jaipur, Udaipur and Kota airports besides Civil Enclaves at the Defence Airfields at Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner. Further, there are 26 airstrips in Rajasthan maintained by the State Government for Civil Aviation purposes.

Alliance Air (a subsidiary of Indian Airlines), Sahara Airlines and Jet Airways operate services linking important stations within and outside Rajasthan.

Haj Pilgrims

4576. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Haj pilgrims angry with AI staff" which appeared in the Pioneer dated the 31st March, 2000; and

(b) if so, the reasons for Haj pilgrims to be angry?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the flights during phase II (return journey) of Haj operations were delayed due to various reasons. Some of them are as under:—

(i) The Charter Operator could not sustain the schedule due to an initial engineering snag;

(ii) Extreme congestion conditions at the Haj Terminal at Jeddah.

(iii) The directive of Saudi Authorities to use the Haj Terminal also for the departure of scheduled flights.

(iv) Only four counters were being allocated to Air India and that too intermittently for about two hours at a time.

(v) The complete contingent of support staff from India could not be put in position in time because of the delay in the issuance of visa by the Saudi Authorities.

(vi) A majority of Haj passengers report at the check-in counter with excess baggage which not only contributes to the congestion but also slows down the entire process of checking-in the passengers.

Violation of Deputation Rules in AAI

4577. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of officers/officials are being taken on deputation in Airports Authority of India during January 1999 onwards from Government/PSUs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether these posts are filled against the sanctioned post as per R and P rules for such posts;

(c) whether these posts are being filled as per the Government policy on deputation from Government to PSUs; and

(d) if these deputations are not as per Government policy what action Government have taken against such violations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Airports Authority of India(AAI) has taken only nine people on deputation from Government/PSUs